



U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

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PRESS RELEASE:

2nd class graduates 1st ever MARSOC Advanced Linguist Course

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE N.C. (June 17, 2010) U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command graduated 10 Marines from the Marine Special Operations Advanced Linguist Course here, June 17, 2010, during a ceremony inside the MARSOC headquarters building.

The Marines began the 52-week long Dari, Pashtu and Urdu courses on June 1, 2009. This is the second class to graduate the ALC, and the first class to complete the Dari, Pashtu and Urdu courses. The other class graduated on Feb. 19, and taught Marines French and Bahasa (the primary language of Indonesia), during a 36-week long training period.

The ALC is the first course of its kind in the military in which students learn to read, write, and fluently speak French, Bahasa (the primary language of Indonesia), Dari, Pashtu and Urdu.

The Dari, Pashtu and Urdu courses are intended to prepare Marines to meet the challenges of mastering the cultural understanding necessary to partner with host nations. The aggressive curriculum includes formal classroom work taught by contracted instructors using the communicative approach, and a three-week immersion period within the U.S. where the Marines interact with a populous, which speaks the respective language they learned.

This course is part of MARSOC's larger effort to place fluent foreign language speakers with each of its teams to enable them the ability to negotiate and develop relationships with the populace.

Now that the Marines have graduated they will join Marine Special Operations Teams under 1st, 2d and 3d Marines Special Operations Battalion.

Media needing more information regarding this event please contact MARSOC public affairs at (910) 440-0705.